

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION INFORMATION LETTER

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PREPARE TO MAKE STOCK REPORT PROMPTLY

Canners who have expressed their willingness to cooperate with the Census Bureau in the survey of stocks of canned corn, peas and tomatoes in the warehouses of canners and distributors will soon receive from the Bureau a schedule on which to report their stocks of these products as of December 31.

This year the schedule has been simplified so as to call only for total stocks in all sizes of containers, which should enable canners to make their reports without delay.

Only one request for the figures will be sent out by the Census Bureau, and the survey will be ended on a fixed date with the publication of such statistics as have been received up to that time.

Canners are urged to prepare and mail their reports to the Bureau before the time of the annual convention; otherwise the schedule may be overlooked and the report so delayed that the Bureau will be unable to use it in the final compilation of the statistics.

CORN SUGAR LABELING REQUIREMENT REVOKED

The use of corn sugar as an ingredient in the packing, preparation or processing of any article of food in which sugar is a recognized element need not be declared upon the label of such products, according to a ruling announced on December 26 by Secretary of Agriculture Arthur M. Hyde. This ruling abrogates the departmental regulation under the Food and Drug Act requiring the use of corn sugar to be declared upon the label.

The ruling as issued by the Secretary of Agriculture follows:

"Corn sugar (dextrose) when sold in packages, must be labeled as such; when sold in bulk must be declared as such; but the use of pure refined corn sugar as an ingredient in the packing, preparation or processing of any article of food in which sugar is a recognized element need not be declared upon the label of any such product.

"Nothing in this ruling shall be construed to permit the

adulteration or imitation of any natural products such as honey by the addition of any sugar or other ingredient whatever."

CONVENTION PROGRAM

Copies of the convention program are being mailed this week to the members of the Association, in order that they may acquaint themselves with the subjects to be discussed at the various meetings, and so arrange their convention plans as to make the best use of their time.

TOMATOES USED FOR CANNING AND FOR TOMATO PRODUCTS

According to reports to the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates from canners representing approximately two-fifths of the total tonnage of tomatoes estimated for manufacture in 1929 and 1930, the proportion of the crop used for canned tomatoes was 54.6 per cent in 1929 and 52.8 per cent in 1930. The proportion used for other tomato products, such as tomato paste, pulp, puree, soups, catsup, juice, sauces, etc., was indicated as 45.4 per cent in 1929 and 47.2 per cent in 1930.

Although the indicated proportion of the crop used for canned tomatoes was slightly less in 1930 than in 1929, total tonnage utilized for this purpose was about 13 per cent greater in 1930, due to a 17 per cent increase in total production of tomatoes for manufacture. The indicated increase in tonnage used for other tomato products in 1930 was 22 per cent above that used in 1929.

The foregoing is based entirely upon the assumption that the operations of the canners making a report (representing about 40 per cent of canning tomato acreage) are typical of all tomato canning operations this year and last.

BIENNIAL CENSUS OF CANNING

The Census Bureau announced on December 31 that, according to a preliminary tabulation of data collected in the Census of Manufactures taken in 1930, the total value (at f. o. b. factory prices) of the output of canned fruits and vegetables, pickles, preserves, sauces, and related products in the United States in 1929 amounted to \$709,361,875, an increase of 28.1 per cent as compared with \$553,925,051 reported for 1927, the last preceding census year. The 1929 total is made up as follows: Canned vegetables and soups, 130,295,555 cases, valued at \$321,004,289; canned fruits, 32,740,675 cases, \$136,265,894; dried fruits (factory production), 932,360,902 pounds, \$75,176,173; pickles, sauces, etc., \$132,841,710; and jellies, preserves, and jams, \$44,073,809.

Of the total value for 1929, \$696,589,636 was contributed

by establishments engaged primarily in canning and preserving, and the remaining \$12,772,239 represents the value of canned fruits, vegetables, etc., reported as secondary products by establishments engaged primarily in other lines of industry.

The canning and preserving industry, as defined for census purposes, embraces establishments engaged wholly or principally in canning and preserving fruits and vegetables; in preserving and drying fruits and vegetables; and in the manufacture of preserves, jellies, pickles, sauces, dressings, ketchup, prepared mustard, etc. It does not include the output of establishments canning fish, milk or meats, such establishments being included in other census classifications.

Fruits and Vegetables

The following table from the Census Bureau's preliminary tabulation shows the volume (in cases of all sizes of containers) and the value of the output of canned vegetables and fruits in 1929, along with comparative figures for 1927 so far as they were separately reported.

	1927		1929	
	Cases	Value	Cases	Value
VEGETABLES				
Asparagus	2,176,755	\$12,201,729	2,727,221	\$15,463,623
Beans:				
Baked, with pork, with sauce	17,886,709	34,959,053	17,190,849	35,529,468
Green	4,130,634	10,658,905	7,031,907	15,979,007
Lima	a	a	1,229,063	3,505,543
Wax	698,905	1,052,902	1,239,040	3,399,388
Other	2,644,090	5,498,344	4,320,343	9,897,214
Beets	815,182	2,040,701	1,908,455	4,571,179
Corn	10,254,706	22,855,387	16,593,484	36,546,673
Greens:				
Spinach	2,462,190	6,225,106	4,814,521	12,130,501
Other	a	a	249,655	569,000
Hominy	1,694,726	2,180,302	1,765,324	2,531,737
Kraut	3,100,929	5,460,115	3,009,260	8,350,068
Peas	13,084,793	34,030,864	17,285,384	43,936,199
Pimientos	486,611	2,069,006	506,012	2,014,405
Pumpkin and squash	1,093,954	1,984,189	2,421,135	4,211,719
Spaghetti	2,750,501	6,060,844	4,233,193	8,311,526
Succotash	a	a	289,727	770,659
Sweet potatoes	a	a	295,243	715,568
Tomatoes	18,229,068	33,813,525	19,006,320	39,531,375
Tomato paste	437,834	2,298,186	569,360	3,481,261
Tomato pulp	2,459,462	3,861,253	2,877,177	5,269,203
Tomato sauce	410,209	1,083,523	949,481	2,540,541
Vegetables, mixed	a	a	764,482	1,803,300
Others, including soups, dried and dehydrated vegetables ..	12,571,041	45,007,129	17,128,859	59,045,533
FRUITS				
Apples	2,939,031	5,895,138	3,540,275	7,708,111
Applesauce	a	a	903,391	2,446,796
Apricots	3,009,357	12,256,317	4,203,294	16,884,232
Berries:				
Blackberries	626,333	1,725,073	842,604	2,414,005
Blueberries	a	a	147,134	801,468
Loganberries	441,199	1,641,434	358,807	1,319,463
Raspberries	528,546	2,614,413	602,653	3,293,740
Strawberries	a	a	403,194	2,418,139
Other	788,510	3,825,805	73,521	222,397

	1927		1929	
	Cases	Value	Cases	Value
Cherries:				
Sour	a	a	1,121,978	5,689,260
Sweet	a	a	1,002,000	5,990,738
Fruits for salad	1,101,188	7,574,856	1,679,880	11,005,853
Grapefruit	455,093	1,758,637	1,174,823	4,136,893
Grapefruit juice	a	a	315,708	490,490
Olives, ripe	458,280	2,808,238	933,972	4,675,118
Peaches	11,305,057	36,235,437	8,722,620	35,672,165
Pears	2,953,502	13,066,554	4,859,754	24,195,676
Plums	223,955	685,749	170,542	558,993
Prunes	518,700	1,530,949	1,009,134	3,225,100
Other fruits	906,180	3,621,944	815,373	3,073,061

a Not reported separately.

Jams, Preserves, Pickles, etc.

The following table, also taken from the Bureau's tabulation, gives the value of the output of preserves, jams, jellies, fruit butters, pickles, sauces, salad dressings, ketchup, etc. For these articles quantitative statistics are not compiled.

Preserves, jams, jellies and fruit butters	\$44,073,800	\$37,682,393
Pickles, sauces, salad dressings, etc., ketchup and prepared horseradish:		
Salad dressings and salad oils—		
Cooked	2,488,039	691,010
Mayonnaise	31,036,693	27,000,024
Other raw dressings and salad oil	7,690,826	7,206,842
Pickles	34,528,413	32,979,816
Ketchup	24,317,468	20,230,807
Sauces, prepared mustard, prepared horseradish, etc.	17,910,621	19,567,254
Olives, bottled and in bulk	9,783,599	4,856,785
Kraut in bulk	4,106,902	2,974,429
Tomato pulp, in bulk	880,149	392,797

Canned Meats

The output of canned meat products in the meat packing industry in 1929 was valued at \$45,273,927, according to the Census Bureau's biennial census of meat packing. The 1929 output represents an increase of 62.7 per cent over that of 1927, when the value was \$27,823,677.

In the 1929 census separate figures were for the first time collected for canned meats, canned sausage, and other canned foods. The quantity and value of the output of each of these classes in 1929 was as follows:

	Pounds	Value
Canned meat	149,418,162	\$38,079,915
Canned sausage	19,551,900	4,404,404
Other canned foods	20,298,643	2,789,608

Condensed and Evaporated Milk

The total value of condensed and evaporated milk and related products shipped or delivered in 1929 by establishments engaged primarily in the manufacture of these commodities

amounted to \$200,606,361, an increase of 3.7 per cent as compared with \$193,437,031 reported for 1927, the last preceding census year. The total for 1929 is made up as follows: Condensed and evaporated milk and buttermilk, 2,211,333,262 pounds, valued at \$167,924,341; powdered whole milk and cream and powdered skim milk and buttermilk, 170,699,220 pounds, \$16,470,651; ice-cream mix, 82,101,785 pounds, \$8,958,342; other products of the industry, \$7,253,027.

In addition, commodities which would normally be primary products of this industry are manufactured to some extent as secondary products by establishments engaged primarily in other lines of manufacture. The value of such products thus made outside the industry in 1927 was \$16,589,060, an amount equal to 8.3 per cent of the total value of this class of commodities made within the industry. The corresponding value for 1929 has not yet been ascertained but will be given in the final report of the census.

The following table gives the quantity and value of condensed and evaporated milk and buttermilk and canned sterilized milk produced in 1927 and 1929 in establishments engaged primarily in manufacturing these products, as shown in the Census Bureau's tabulations:

	1927		1929	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned milk:				
Case goods.....	350,174,856	\$32,367,126	231,858,963	\$23,322,556
Bulk goods.....			252,196,592	16,438,987
Evaporated milk:				
Case goods.....	1,580,674,931	128,883,525	1,394,438,363	111,268,538
Bulk goods.....			255,767,352	14,468,539
Sterilized milk (canned)	7,797,924	655,337	6,527,442	493,300

Poultry

Preliminary statistics on the output of establishments engaged primarily in poultry killing, dressing, and packing in 1929, issued by the Census Bureau, show that the value of the poultry canned in these plants was \$3,242,767, divided as follows: Whole, \$332,600; parts, \$2,586,490; potted chicken, \$323,686.

Miscellaneous Foods

In the classification "Food preparations, not elsewhere classified," the Census Bureau includes an item "meat products, such as sliced and packed bacon and dried beef, pickled pigs' feet, calves' heads, canned meats, boned and canned chicken, etc." The output of the foods included in this item was valued at \$20,453,339 in 1927, and \$24,091,148 in 1929.

Fish and Shellfish

The Bureau of Fisheries collects annual statistics of the canned fishery products, including the Alaska salmon fisheries, and the following table, compiled from the Bureau's annual reports, gives the volume (in standard cases) and the value of the principal canned products in 1927 and 1929:

	1927		1929	
	Cases	Value	Cases	Value
Alewife roe	45,108	\$252,120	28,819	\$188,374
Alewives	21,327	64,577	68,445	246,773
Clam products	525,286	2,744,954	554,639	2,548,472
Crabs	1,000	26,988	1,151	30,530
Mackerel	a	a	602,283	2,515,742
Oysters	477,297	2,367,949	519,145	2,732,478
Salmon	5,076,579	45,728,761	6,090,682	56,085,697
Sardines:				
Maine and Massachusetts	1,262,124	5,249,030	2,025,801	6,807,946
California	2,563,146	9,268,784	3,831,215	11,906,997
Shad	11,500	61,842	26,153	122,117
Shad roe	767	21,800	2,732	61,379
Shrimp	852,764	5,321,652	906,940	5,528,792
Tuna and tuna-like fishes	1,255,818	8,368,227	1,504,306	9,873,453
Miscellaneous, fish, caviar, roe and eggs	215,334	1,842,874	231,157	2,022,534
Miscellaneous shellfish	3,470	64,485	13,761	183,771

a Not reported separately.

FORECAST OF FREIGHT MOVEMENT

Shippers of the country, through estimates submitted to the Shippers' Regional Advisory Boards of the American Railway Association, anticipate that carload shipments of the 29 principal commodities in the first quarter of 1931 (January, February and March) will be approximately 6,568,456 cars, a reduction of 380,607 cars, or 5.5 per cent, below the corresponding period in 1930.

Shipments of canned food products, including jams, jellies, pickles, preserves, etc., during the quarter are estimated at 46,851 cars, as compared with actual shipments of 46,360 cars during the first quarter of 1930, an increase of 1.1 per cent.

UNITED KINGDOM BUYING MORE CANNED GRAPEFRUIT

The British market for canned grapefruit is steadily increasing, according to a report from the office of the American commercial attache in London, which states that imports this year are estimated at more than 70,000 cases, as compared with 67,896 cases in 1929, 22,940 cases in 1928, and 52,804 cases in 1927.

In this connection the American trade commissioner at San Juan, Porto Rico, reports that there is a prospect of direct shipment of canned grapefruit from Porto Rico to the United Kingdom, if a reduction is made in existing freight rates, which are higher from Porto Rico than from Atlantic Coast ports.

CANNED FOOD EXPORTS DECLINE IN NOVEMBER

Decreases occurred in shipments of all canned foods except canned meats during the month of November, according to figures compiled by the U. S. Department of Commerce. The following table gives the quantity and value of the exports, by articles, for November, 1929 and 1930:

Articles	November, 1929		November, 1930	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total.....	1,159,534	\$416,223	1,295,893	\$430,187
Beef	202,988	70,286	157,340	50,576
Pork	736,431	281,100	848,135	312,847
Sausage	104,367	33,948	87,244	24,086
Other	115,748	30,799	263,174	42,678
Canned vegetables, total.....	7,639,770	746,874	4,835,078	477,465
Asparagus	1,500,408	232,143	1,207,923	181,576
Baked beans, and pork and beans	523,700	51,030	945,190	47,654
Corn	627,781	52,635	401,893	32,580
Peas	499,867	44,019	419,136	30,788
Soups	2,492,124	247,041	1,048,178	115,822
Tomatoes	436,335	30,324	394,012	24,585
Other	1,550,456	89,682	418,746	35,460
Condensed milk	2,770,232	445,590	1,073,308	336,639
Evaporated milk	4,766,989	474,355	4,365,707	393,872
Canned fruits, total.....	25,605,264	2,704,854	20,070,132	1,897,709
Apples and applesauce	4,470,369	226,584	2,502,698	141,733
Apricots	2,248,136	233,003	1,163,249	103,075
Loganberries	497,867	61,556	315,398	44,122
Other berries			122,728	18,170
Cherries	194,700	34,016	144,015	20,815
Fruits for salad	2,547,105	432,115	2,773,348	380,517
Peaches	6,490,618	675,364	4,893,111	380,162
Pears	5,227,504	618,695	5,806,689	514,983
Pineapple	2,737,312	292,796	1,796,263	187,102
Prunes	264,858	36,750	272,351	27,710
Other	926,786	63,975	610,282	79,320
Salmon	2,776,824	521,025	2,273,836	461,175
Sardines	11,391,829	839,486	8,175,983	512,698

DATE FOR OLIVE OIL HEARING SET

The U. S. Tariff Commission has set January 27, 1931, as the date of the public hearing on the cost of production of olive oil. The hearing will take place at the office of the Commission, in Washington, beginning at 10 o'clock.

The Commission has also announced a hearing on umbrellas, parasols, sunshades and parts thereof on January 28, and on infants' wear of wool on January 29.

GREEN AND WAX BEAN PACK

The following figures have been compiled by the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce from statements received from about 87 per cent of the cannerys of green and wax beans whose names are listed in the directory of the National Cannery Association. The organizations which did not return answers to the questionnaires sent them, the Foodstuffs Division states, are known to be very small and almost

without exception are located in the drought belt where the bean crop was practically a complete failure. Under the circumstances, since every reasonable means have been tried to get estimates of or actual production from them, these figures are being released. They would represent at least 97½ per cent of the total pack, assuming that each of the non-reporting firms packed 2,000 cases, which is a high estimate.

The unusual climatic conditions are responsible for the drop in production. Most northern states packed less than in preceding years, although in the South, where the packing of beans is a newer industry, increases have been noted.

The 1930 pack, by sizes of containers, was as follows:

Size	Green Beans	Wax Beans
	Cases	Cases
48 No. 1's	195,418	77,353
24 No. 2's	4,821,416	1,126,980
24 No. 3's	36,743	
24 No. 2½'s	160,241	
48 No. 55's	91,480	67,019
6 No. 10's	950,740	180,676
Miscellaneous	45,317	15,294

The following table shows the pack of green and wax beans, by states, in equivalent cases of 24 No. 2 cans, in 1929 and 1930:

State	GREEN BEANS	
	1929 Cases	1930 Cases
Arkansas	216,026	150,254
California	262,141	237,858
Colorado	578,195	553,386
Delaware	265,535	142,096
Illinois	39,934	29,286
Indiana	303,637	204,308
Iowa	92,325	63,498
Louisiana	120,550	131,061
Maine	100,284	227,588
Maryland	1,896,807	778,778
Michigan	289,212	307,076
Mississippi	131,441	200,006
Missouri	51,703	48,102
New York	1,027,680	1,026,048
Ohio	18,862	22,304
Oklahoma	24,659	17,641
Oregon	214,082	200,807
Pennsylvania	383,497	328,870
South Carolina	86,395	161,160
Tennessee	228,782	141,646
Texas	*	122,947
Utah	229,202	332,814
Washington	193,505	250,440
Wisconsin	651,465	676,559
All other States	240,417	258,259
Total	7,245,345	6,739,482

* Included in "All other States."

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to

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WAX BEANS

State	1929 Cases	1930 Cases
Colorado	118,970	141,981
Maine	51,002	98,631
Maryland	54,816	43,780
Michigan	103,527	180,016
New York	447,306	467,601
Pennsylvania	15,800	24,223
Wisconsin	331,012	418,677
All other States	97,480	127,457
Total	1,283,612	1,511,360

SEMI-ANNUAL INDEX OF LETTER

This week's issue of the Information Letter contains an index of articles appearing in the Letter during the last half of the year. The index is so printed that it can be removed by those who maintain a file of the Letters or have them bound, and placed immediately after the last number issued in December.

WHOLESALE GROCERY TRADE IN NOVEMBER

Reports to the Federal reserve system by wholesale firms selling groceries, dry goods, hardware and drugs indicate that in all these lines sales in the month of November were considerably smaller than a year ago. Reports for the first eleven months of the year combined also show decreases as compared with last year in the four lines of wholesale trade. The sales of wholesale grocers, by districts, show the following changes:

	November, 1930, compared with November, 1929	Jan. 1-Nov. 30, 1930, compared with Jan. 1-Nov. 30, 1929
	Per cent	Per cent
Boston	-17	-10
New York	-20	-7
Philadelphia	-10	-5
Cleveland	-21	-8
Richmond	-16	-7
Atlanta	-26	-14
Chicago	-14	-4
St. Louis	-18	-9
Minneapolis	-14	-5
Kansas City	-14	-5
Dallas	-18	-8
San Francisco	-14	-2
Total	-17	-6

CANNED MILK PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

Over 20 per cent more evaporated milk was manufactured during November this year than last year despite efforts of manufacturers to curtail their make, according to a same firm comparison made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. A similar comparison also shows that November production fell

only about 11 per cent short of that of October, a seasonal decrease considerably lighter than normal. These factors, together with the heavier make of butter, are indicative of a heavier milk flow during November this year than last year. Up to that month, and with the exception of January and May, when production just slightly exceeded that during corresponding months of the previous year, milk production during 1930, as reflected in dairy products manufactured, had continually fallen short of that of comparative months of 1929. Evaporated milk production during the period of January to November, 1930, was approximately 4.8 per cent lighter than during the corresponding period of 1929. Despite increasing production, stocks of evaporated milk on December 1 were 9.1 per cent lighter than on even date a year ago.

Stocks of condensed milk on December 1 were slightly over 13 per cent lighter than on the same date a year ago. Production showed an increase of over 13 per cent during November, 1930, in comparison with November, 1929, and fell only around 13 per cent short of October. The usual drop in November production compared with the previous month is 25 per cent.

TRUCK CROP MARKETS

Christmas week in the produce markets was dull, as usual, shipments of nearly all fruits and vegetables decreasing rather sharply, except western lettuce, according to the U. S. Market News Service.

Snap beans moved from Florida at the rate of only six cars daily, compared with 20 each day during the same week last season. Florida tomato shipments decreased to 55 cars for the week, mostly East Coast stock. Imports from Cuba decreased to 130 cars, but arrivals from Mexico increased to 120. The Bahamas supplied about 15 carloads.

Only four cars of strawberries rolled from Florida, compared with 22 a year ago. Texas spinach shipments decreased sharply to 175 cars. Carrot movement was down to 160 cars, of which 125 came from California and 30 from New York. Total of 130 cars of cauliflower was only half as many as the week before. About 100 cars came from California and 20 from Oregon. Mexican green-pea shipments increased to 65 cars; that was about the only source of supply.

Orange output decreased further to 1,050 cars. While California orange shipments increased to 595, Florida decreased to 445 cars. Florida moved only 90 carloads of tangerines. Forwardings of grapefruit held at 350 cars, or about one-third more than last year. Florida grapefruit shipments had increased to

305 cars, but Texas dropped to 20 and Arizona shipped 15. Mixed citrus movement from Florida totaled only 325 cars.

Combined shipments of 25 leading fruits and vegetables were only 9,440 cars, compared with 12,770 the preceding week and 9,385 cars during the same period last season.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Dec. 21-27, 1930	Dec. 14-20, 1930	Dec. 22-28, 1929	Total this season to Dec. 27	Total last season to Dec. 28	Total last season
Apples, total.....	1,269	1,521	856	80,639	78,069	102,801
Eastern states....	457	502	305	32,947	41,178	51,439
Western states....	812	1,019	551	47,692	36,891	51,362
Carrots:						
1931 season.....	127	146	143	1,859	1,739	11,000
1930 season.....	33	54	45	11,000	11,042	12,149
Cabbage:						
1931 season.....	83	132	87	313	205	33,634
1930 season.....	339	484	494	33,634	40,276	44,244
Cauliflower.....	130	253	175	4,295	3,868	9,535
Green peas:						
Domestic.....	0	18	22	924	428	6,796
Imports.....	63	37	157	121	351	2,118
Mixed vegetables:						
Domestic.....	329	545	254	30,591	32,256	32,430
Imports.....	9	3	9	34	38	343
Pears.....	69	123	35	27,445	20,013	21,147
Peppers:						
Domestic.....	17	97	11	464	122	2,785
Imports.....	12	3	20	24	69	477
Spinach.....	178	451	183	1,869	1,903	9,630
String beans.....	42	48	139	1,554	1,248	9,532
Tomatoes:						
1931 season.....	53	124	12	464	50	33,470
Imports.....	265	253	155	858	589	7,049
1930 season.....	12	27	2	33,470	32,193	32,202

DEPARTMENT STORE TRADE IN NOVEMBER

Daily average department store sales were at about the same level in November as in October. Ordinarily there is an increase in the later month, and the Federal Reserve Board's index of department store sales, which is adjusted for seasonal variation, declined by 4 per cent in November to the lowest point reached this year. As compared with November, 1929, which had one more trading day, the value of total sales in November, 1930, was 14 per cent smaller.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

For the holiday week ending December 27, 1930, bank debits showed a decline from the week previous and were also under the corresponding week in 1929. Business failures decreased from the week previous, even after corrections are made for the number of business days.

Interest rates were the same as a week ago for time money, but call money rates were lower. Both rates were materially lower than a year ago. Prices of representative stocks declined to the lowest point of the year, while bond prices rose slightly.

Wholesale commodity prices dropped by 0.5 points last week to the lowest recorded this year. Farm products, textiles, metals and building materials groups alone rose during the week.

Movement of commodities by rail, as shown by statistics for the latest reported week, was less than for the preceding week and for the corresponding week a year ago.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended December 20.....	713,810	237,780	210,264	265,766
Preceding week.....	787,173	260,805	223,072	264,296
Corresponding week, 1929.....	842,775	285,029	228,536	329,210
Corresponding week, 1928.....	900,020	316,595	242,578	341,447

EDUCATING CONSUMER ON NEW LABELING LAW

While engaged in formulating the standards to be established under the new labeling law, government food officials are not neglecting the important task of educating consumers as to the purpose and benefits of this legislation, which will be made effective on the 1931 pack. Speaking over WJZ in the series of "Read-the-Label" talks, Mr. W. R. M. Wharton, chief of the eastern district of the administration, recently discussed the labeling law in a manner that will be of interest to canners as well as the consumers to whom the talk was specially directed. Mr. Wharton said:

"I have some interesting news for you today. The Food and Drug Administration is making great progress in standardizing canned fruits and vegetables. Perhaps you do not know what this means—so let me tell you that the 71st United States Congress passed, and the President on July 8, 1930, approved an amendment, commonly known as the Mapes bill or the canners' bill, to the Federal Food and Drugs Act. This enactment is intended to promote honesty and fair dealing in the interest of the consumer.

"The amendment authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to determine, establish and promulgate reasonable standards of quality, condition and/or fill of container for each class of canned foods except canned milk and those meat products of cattle, sheep, swine or goats which are subject to the Federal Meat Inspection Act. This does not mean standards are authorized for grades, varieties, or species of a generic product but only for generic products themselves. The amendment further pro-

vides authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to prescribe and promulgate a form of statement which must appear in a plain and conspicuous manner on each package or label of canned foods which falls below the standards promulgated, which statement shall indicate that such canned food falls below such standards.

"Now, my friends, enactment of this amendment to the Food and Drugs Act is an epoch-making event in your interest. It is an important step forward in the interest of informative labeling. It signifies that the consumer will be furnished on the label a means of determining whether any particular item of canned food is above or below an established standard of excellence. I told you that this amendment is known as the Cannery Bill. This is because the law was passed at the behest and urgency of the American canners themselves. The American canning industry is not only solidly supporting the enforcement of the Federal Food and Drugs Act, but desires further to see in effect legal requirements for informative branding of a still more effective kind.

"Great progress has been made in the formation of the standards for the various food products. Standards for several canned products will be promulgated shortly, and when next season's pack of canned foods comes on the market, you will find on labels of products not meeting the established standards a statement indicating that such products are below the United States standard. The legend to be used to indicate the fact has not been decided upon, but the expression 'below United States standard' will likely form a part of it. Isn't this good news? Isn't it good news that you are to be supplied a method of determining whether canned foods are of standard quality or not?

"Now what does it actually mean to you? It means if any lot of canned goods is not properly prepared or does not meet the standards established for quality, then such products must be marked to show that they are below the United States standard. Heretofore, the label reader has not had any label means of determining whether any particular canned food is of standard quality or substandard, tender or tough, naturally flavored or off in flavor, properly filled or improperly filled, naturally colored or off in color, and the like. The official standards will require normal color, acceptable degree of tenderness, normal flavor, etc., and any products not meeting any of these conditions will be required to be labeled with a statement showing them to be below the United States standard.

"This will not require manufacturers to make label state-

ments of the various degrees of quality, nor will it even require labels to state that the products contained are of standard quality when such is the case, but it will require labels on sub-standard products to plainly designate them as below United States standard. When products are labeled to show that they are below the United States standards, this will not mean that they are unfit for food. It will mean that they are inferior to standard products and, therefore, should sell at a cheaper price. Isn't this a splendid piece of news for you, Mr. and Mrs. Label Reader? You may begin to look for the declaration on the products covered after next season's pack of canned goods comes on the market.

"If you find a statement to the effect that the product is substandard, you will know that it is below the established standard. If you do not find such a statement, you will know that the product meets the standard. It is possible that manufacturers themselves will elect to make affirmative and positive statements of relative quality on products which are superior to the standard. I can visualize developments from this beginning which will present to the consumers a fuller opportunity to become increasingly more discriminating in making their purchases. This amendment to the law will not cause any let-up in the enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act. Unfit products will continue to be barred from commerce and denied the right to be used."

ALASKA FISHERIES REGULATIONS

No marked changes have been made by the Department of Commerce in its revision of the fisheries regulations for Alaska, effective January 1. The most striking feature in the new regulations is the reduction in the number of salmon traps that may be operated, which has been brought about by closing to traps coast lines previously open to their operations.

Under the new regulations it will be necessary to discontinue the operation of 3 traps in the Chignik Area, 15 in the Kodiak Area, 1 in the Cook Inlet Area, and 50 in the Southeastern Alaska Area. This makes a total of 69 salmon traps that will be eliminated.

In the Bristol Bay Area the weekly closed period of 36 hours specified by section 5 of the act of June 6, 1924, has been extended to include a mid-week period of 24 hours, making a total closed period of 60 hours each week.

In the Bering River Area all commercial fishing for salmon is prohibited. This prohibition does not, however, apply to the taking of fish for local food requirements or for use as dog feed.

CREDIT CONDITIONS DURING PAST YEAR

Despite prevailing business conditions during the first half of 1930 there was no important change in retail credit conditions in department stores, women's specialty, men's clothing and shoe stores, according to reports obtained by the Commerce Department in its first semi-annual retail credit survey.

The proportion of total sales made on a cash basis decreased slightly, while the proportionate sales on open and installment credit made small gains, all of which changes were seemingly in line with the general trend for some years past.

Bad debt losses on credit accounts were higher than those revealed by a similar survey in 1927 but averaged less than 0.6 per cent of open credit sales for these four types of stores. Bad debt losses on installment sales were proportionately higher than in 1927, ranging from 1.5 per cent of total sales on installments for department stores to 5.4 per cent for women's specialty shops; the average for four lines of trade mentioned was 1.76 per cent.

Returns and allowances, revealed in the first national retail credit survey as an important adjunct of credit extension, were found generally to be increasing in 1929 and 1930 as compared with 1927. The increase in the first half of 1930 over the similar period of 1929 was moderate for open account sales while the similar figure for installment sales varied between the different types of stores, department stores registering a decline while returns and allowances on installment sales in women's specialty shops increased from 8.7 per cent in 1929 to 13.9 per cent in 1930.

Department stores were the heaviest losers among the lines of trade studied in the matter of fraudulent buying as well as fraudulent checks. This information, gathered for the first time in connection with this survey, reveals losses of 0.2 per cent of total sales for department stores through fraudulent buying and 0.1 per cent estimated loss from fraudulent checks.

CANNED FRUIT MARKET IN BRITISH MALAYA

While total imports of canned fruits into British Malaya decreased during the first half of 1930, imports from the United States increased appreciably, according to the American Trade Commissioner at Singapore. This increase of American business appears to be paradoxical in view of the generally depressed economic conditions prevailing in British Malaya during the current year. However, Singapore importers claim that stocks of American canned fruits were exceedingly low at the end of the

year 1929 and that following a general price reduction early in 1930, they ordered heavily in anticipation of a good business during the European and native holidays in January and February. This view appears to be substantiated by the fact that January imports of American canned fruits amounted to 118,720 pounds and subsequent monthly imports fell during the half with June imports totaling only 51,520 pounds.

Of significance to American canners is the fact that imports from the British possessions dropped heavily—from 752,640 pounds to 336,000 pounds. A very appreciable amount of this represents Australian fruits and it would appear that the Australians have not had a very profitable half year in this market. According to trade reports, the Australian canners cannot hope to dislodge the American product from the ever commanding position which it holds, due to the attractively labelled pack and also because the fruit is admittedly superior in every way. Incidentally, certain amounts of the imports from the British possessions represent cheap East Indian canned fruits, for consumption by the Indian population of Malaya, as well as Chinese fruits from Hongkong.

REPORT ON HAWAIIAN CANNERIES SOON AVAILABLE

The bulletin on employment of women in the pineapple canneries of Hawaii, noted in the Information Letter for December 20, will be available for distribution by the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor on January 8th. It is an illustrated publication of 30 pages, presenting information on personal data of women employees, seasonal character of the industry, occupations of employees and working conditions, wages, and overtime.

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